

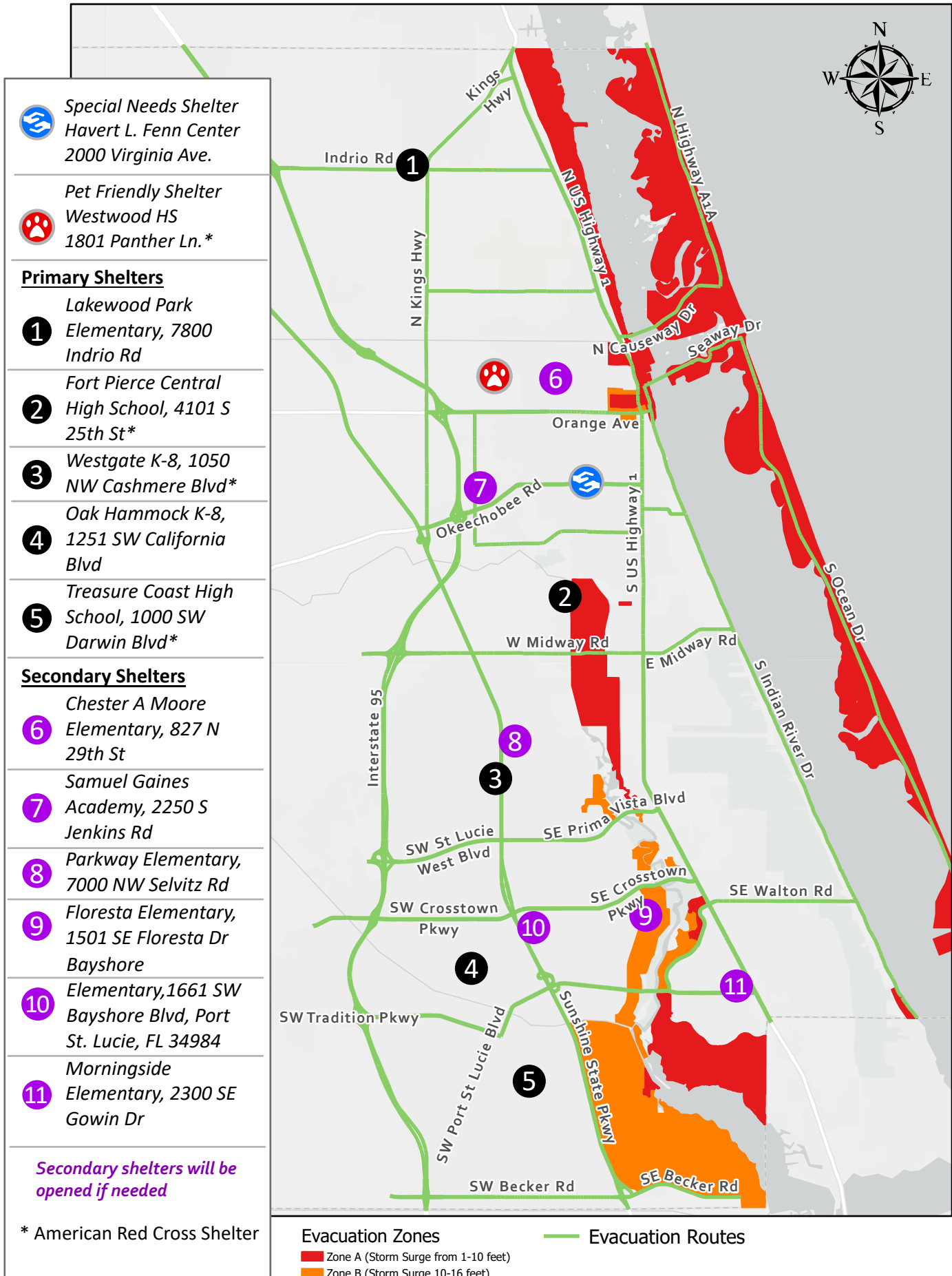


# ST. LUCIE COUNTY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

REVISED APRIL, 2021



# Emergency Shelters



## To the Residents of St. Lucie County...

Living in magnificent St. Lucie County has its price. The sunshine, the warm temperatures and the beauty of our beaches and trails make way each year for wildfire and storm season. During these times, residents are asked to prepare for natural or human-caused emergencies.

Some of us feel invincible about wildfires, hurricanes, and thunderstorms – we often believe that bad things happen only to others. Still others among us are truly frightened by mass devastation. The reality lies somewhere in the middle. We shouldn't be oblivious to catastrophes, nor should we be afraid of them. Disasters are survivable if you are prepared. By organizing a plan and staying informed, you can protect your family and property.

Nothing is more important to your County government than helping you navigate disasters. Consider yourself our partner as together we prepare for local emergencies. We have produced this fundamental Disaster Preparedness Guide to serve as a model of emergency information. Keep it in a convenient location so that you may easily refer to its contents. Keep extra copies to take with you if you are evacuated. Your knowledge and advanced readiness will help you stay calm and organized.

Let's all be hopeful for a quiet wildfire and hurricane season. And remember that we're all in this together.



**St. Lucie County**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**Division of Emergency Management**

15305 W. Midway Road | Fort Pierce, FL 34945

☎ (772) 462-8100 🌐 [www.stlucieco.gov/eoc](http://www.stlucieco.gov/eoc)

## CONTENTS

### BEFORE

Before an Emergency	4
Planning for the Unexpected	4
Create a Disaster Plan	4
Alert and Warning	5
Watch vs. Warning	5
Volunteer	6
Disaster Supply Kit	6
Batten Down the Hatches	7
Trim Trees Before a Storm	7
Prepare Pools	7
Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	8
Thunderstorms	8
Tornados	8
Floods	9
Do You Have Flood Insurance	9
Prevent Flood Damage	9
Wildfires	10
Prevent Wildfires	10
Be Fire Wise	10
Fire Safety	10

### DURING

During an Emergency	11
Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	11
Should I Stay or Should I Go	11
Thunderstorms	11
Tornados	11
Flooding	12
Hurricane Tracking Map	13

### AFTER

After an Emergency	15
General Information	15
Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	16
Tornados and Thunderstorms	16
Flooding	16
Wildfires	16
Food Preparation and Safety	17
Debris Removal	17
Trees and Limbs	17



# BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

## PLANNING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Carefully considering your options in advance helps provide peace-of-mind in an emergency. Having a family disaster plan will guide you in protecting yourself, your family and your property.

Visualize problems you may face and decide which solutions work best. The highest priority is your personal safety. Decide which situations could force you to leave your home. If you will remain in your home – perhaps for several days – what steps will you take to keep yourself safe, secure, and comfortable? While most emergency situations will not require evacuation, they can arrive with little or no warning.



Visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)  
for assistance in building a  
family or business disaster plan.

## CREATE A DISASTER PLAN

1. Educate yourself on the requirements for responding to a fire, flood, hurricane, or tornado.
2. Decide when you would evacuate. Understand the construction and location of your home and determine what plans you should utilize. Are you in a low-lying area that may flood? Are you in a coastal high wind zone? Does your home meet the current building code for hurricanes? Do you live in a high fire hazard area? If you are asked to evacuate by authorities, do so in a timely manner and be prepared to be away from your home for the duration of the event.
3. List simple action steps in priority order. These will vary with the nature of the threat.
4. Create an emergency kit with supplies and copies of essential documents kept in water-resistant containers.
5. Make arrangements for emergency communications. Have school and work phone numbers handy. Establish a meeting place for family members in the event of a home fire or if a disaster occurs while you are not together. Have a local contact and one from out-of-state and ensure each member of your family has their contact information.
6. Identify special transportation or medical needs in the event of an evacuation. Inform local emergency management of these needs.
7. Have a plan for pets. Most shelters do not accept pets; however, local hotels may loosen restrictions on pets during an evacuation. Arrange to stay with friends or family not in the evacuation zone that are willing to house you and your pets.
8. Consider modifications to protect your home from wildfire, wind, and rising water. Review insurance coverage - particularly flood insurance, which often must be purchased separately.
9. Learn about community emergency plans. How will your child's school react? What about plans at work? What will you do if bridges or major roadways are closed?



## ALERT AND WARNING

### Be In The Know!

Sign up for **Alert St. Lucie** emergency notification system. By registering into **Alert St. Lucie**, you will be informed before, during, and after incidents that could impact your safety.

Register online at [www.stlucieco.gov/alert](http://www.stlucieco.gov/alert)



### WATCH

A WATCH is issued when hazardous weather conditions are possible for a given area. Watches will define the potential hazards and the times in which severe weather may occur.

VS.

### WARNING

A WARNING is issued when hazardous weather has been spotted, detected, or is imminent. Warnings will define the hazard, when it is expected, and where it is likely to impact.

## SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

A Special Needs Shelter is available for individuals whose capabilities require assistance in the management of their illness, ailment, or injury. A family member or caregiver should stay at the shelter with the individual. The shelter is not available for individuals who are in a care facility (such as a hospital, nursing home or congregate living facility).

The program is coordinated by the Division of Emergency Management and the St. Lucie County Health Department. Each application will be reviewed to verify qualification. Individuals may register themselves or a family member by visiting [www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds](http://www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds) or by calling (772) 462-8100.

Doctors, providers of in-home medical equipment, and others in medically related professions can help their patients and clients with the registration form, which is available online at [www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds](http://www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds) or by mail from:

**St. Lucie County Division of  
Emergency Management**  
Attn: Special Needs Program  
15305 W. Midway Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34945



# VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are invaluable assets to our community on a day to day basis. They can also be activated during disasters to assist with response and recovery efforts. Volunteer efforts are critical to a successful disaster response. Organizations such as the Medical Reserve Corps, Community Emergency Response Teams, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and others are all partners in disaster response. Please help support your community by becoming a volunteer! Volunteer St. Lucie is the official volunteer corps of St. Lucie County. To learn more visit these web sites:



## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

### **WATER**

- At least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

### **FOOD**

- At least enough for 3 to 7 days
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
- Foods or special items for infants, the elderly, or pets; also snack foods
- Non-electric can opener, cooking tools/fuel
- Paper plates/plastic utensils

### **BLANKETS/PILLOWS, ETC.**

### **CLOTHING**

- Seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes

### **FIRST AID KIT/MEDICINES/ PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

### **TOILETRIES & HYGIENE ITEMS**

### **MOISTURE WIPES**

### **RADIO**

- NOAA battery-operated weather radio

### **FLASHLIGHT/BATTERIES**

### **CASH**

- Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods

### **KEYS**

### **TOYS, BOOKS AND GAMES**

### **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

Put in a waterproof container:

- Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security cards
- Document all valuables with videotape or photos, if possible

### **TOOLS**

- Keep a set with you during the storm

### **VEHICLE FUEL TANKS FILLED**

### **PET CARE ITEMS**

- Proper identification/immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash



## BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

Prepare your hurricane plan. Keep a copy on your vessel, at home, and at the marina. Make sure your insurance policy is current. Keep documents such as insurance policies, a photograph or video of the vessel, boat registration, equipment inventory, lease agreement with the marina or storage area, and telephone numbers of authorities, such as the harbor master, Coast Guard, insurance agent and National Weather Service in a locked waterproof box. A boat owner/operator may be held responsible for damages caused by his or her vessel during a natural disaster. Do not stay aboard any vessel during a hurricane.

### BOATS IN DRY STORAGE

Wherever you choose to locate your boat for the duration of the hurricane, lash the boat to its cradle with heavy lines. Based on the weight of the boat, consider adding water to the bilge to help hold it down. Never leave a boat in davits or on a hydro-lift.

### BOATS IN A MARINA BERTH

Double all lines. Attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise or surge.



## TRIM TREES BEFORE A STORM

Look for potential hazards such as cracks in the trunk or major limbs, hanging branches, improperly formed branches, one-sided or significantly leaning trees, branches that may graze the house, or hollow and decayed trees. Do not trim trees or vegetation just prior to a storm as it will not be collected until the storm has passed. For more information contact the St. Lucie County Solid Waste Department at 462-1768.



## PREPARE POOLS

Bring in any furniture or items that may be blown about by winds. Some waterproof pool furniture can be sunk in the pool itself. If your pool overflowing poses a flood risk to your home, it is recommended you lower the water level 6"-12" to allow for heavy rains. Ensure that your water is properly treated, as it may become a good source of water for washing and flushing should the utility water fail during or after the storm.



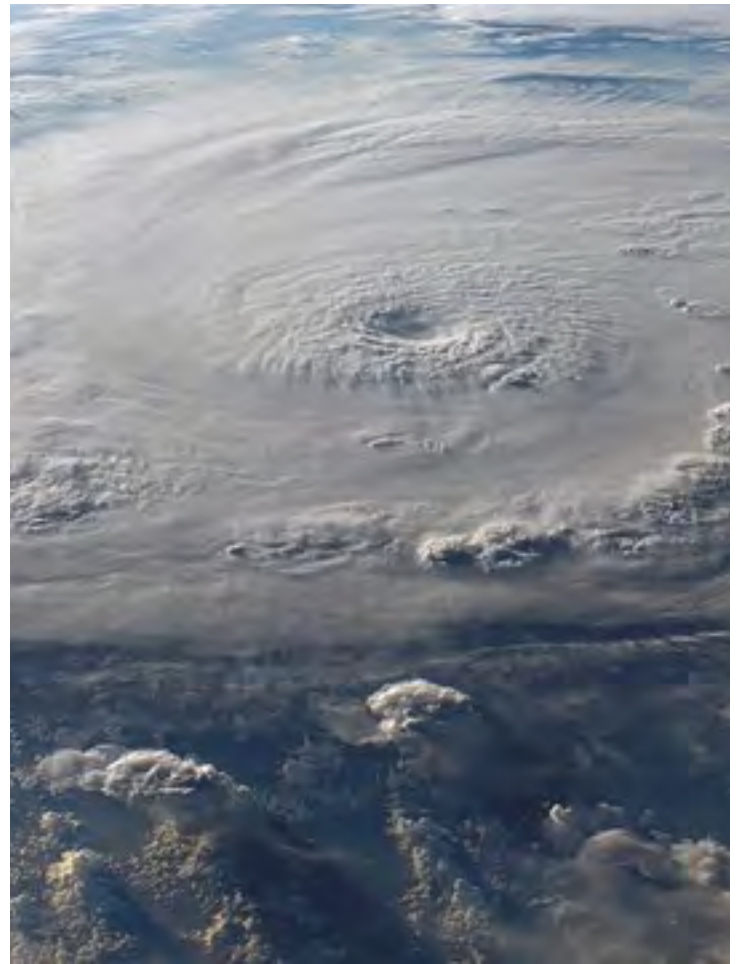
# HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

Hurricanes and strong tropical storms can bring hazards to St. Lucie County even if they approach from the Gulf Coast or from the south. Each storm is different – if you have experienced one before, it does not mean you have experienced them all.

**WINDS:** Hurricane winds exceed 74 mph and in extreme cases, can exceed 155 mph.

**STORM TIDES AND SURGE:** Winds from these massive storms can drive ocean water well inland, flooding coastal and low-lying areas with up to 30 feet of water in extreme cases. Storm surges can be especially destructive, leveling buildings and even changing the very landscape that they impact.

**FLOODING:** Most hurricane and tropical storm-related fatalities occur from inland flooding. Some weak tropical storms can produce excessive amounts of rainfall that can cause dangerous flooding conditions hundreds of miles inland.



# THUNDERSTORMS

Remember, if thunder is heard, you are in range of the lightning. Most lightning strikes occur on beaches or in large, open fields. Seek shelter quickly when you hear thunder.

Fully-enclosed vehicles will protect you from lightning. However, open-air vehicles like golf carts, bikes, and convertibles offer no protection. Heed severe thunderstorm warnings. When a warning is issued, it means that the storms may be capable of producing damaging winds or large, destructive hail. Even if no warning is in effect, seek shelter immediately if threatening weather approaches.



# TORNADOS

Know what to do if a tornado warning is issued, as you may have only a few minutes to seek shelter. Remember, your best shelter is a small interior room in a sturdy building. Mobile homes and vehicles offer no protection from tornados and should be abandoned for sturdy shelter. A tornado can occur without a warning. If threatening weather approaches, seek shelter immediately.





# FLOODS

Flooding is an act of nature which respects no boundary lines. Flood water can cover many blocks with water depths up to 4 feet and can come with little warning. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. If you do not know how deep it is, do not drive through it. **Turn around. Don't drown!**

A flood may be caused by the Intracoastal Waterway or a tributary overflowing the banks during severe storms and/or high tide. It also can occur in areas away from bodies of water by an unexpected large downpour of rain, such as during Tropical Storm Isaac in 2012.

If your home is well-constructed and local authorities have not called for evacuation, stay home and enact emergency preparations. If told to evacuate, follow instructions from local authorities and follow safe evacuation routes to shelter. Your personal evacuation plan should provide for your pets, your personal emergency supplies and insurance papers. When evacuating, take property identification, important personal papers, and documents.

## DO YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE?

Homeowner's insurance typically does not cover floods. If you do not have separate flood insurance, contact your insurance agent. There is a 30-day waiting period after a flood policy is purchased before coverage goes into effect. The St. Lucie County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has taken voluntary actions to exceed the minimum standards of the program. Due to these voluntary actions, residents may benefit with a 20% discount for policies issued or renewed in the special flood hazard area on or after May 1, 2009. The insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even if the property has never been flooded or is not in a special flood hazard area. You may also want to include the contents of your house on a flood insurance policy.

## INTERACTIVE FLOOD MAP

To see if your property is in a flood zone, please visit our interactive map at [www.stlucieco.gov/floodmapper](http://www.stlucieco.gov/floodmapper)

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and flood protection references are available at

- [www.stlucieco.gov/publicworks](http://www.stlucieco.gov/publicworks)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

**For more information, call St. Lucie County's Certified Flood Plain Manager at (772) 462-1100**

## PREVENTING FLOOD DAMAGE

One way to minimize flood damage is to make sure your lot is graded to drain away from your house and toward an existing

drainage way (i.e. front yard swale). Contact the Building Department before altering, regrading, filling or building on your property. A permit is needed to ensure that projects do not cause flooding problems on your property or anyone else's property. You can make your walls water-resistant and place water-tight closures under the doorways. This method is not recommended for houses with basements or if water will reach more than 2 feet deep. Another approach is to modify the structure and relocate the contents so that there is little or no damage when floodwaters enter. You can help the County with its drainage system maintenance program by not dumping or throwing anything into the ditches, swales, or canals, which is a violation of County ordinances. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and block stormwater flow. A plugged ditch or canal cannot carry water away, resulting in overspill onto your property.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

Every year, flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of natural disaster. While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many existing structures remain susceptible. Throughout the country there is a growing interest from property owners to develop practical and cost effective methods for reducing or eliminating exposures to flooding. Several effective ways include acquisition and relocation of a building to a site not subject to flooding; construction of flood-walls or berms to keep water away from the property; or retrofitting structures to make them floodproof. Retrofitting is a different approach because the property itself remains subject to flooding while the building is modified to prevent or minimize flooding of habitable space.

### There are several recognizable approaches to retrofitting:

- Elevation of the structure above flood protection levels.
- Construction of barriers (floodwalls, berms)
- Dry floodproofing (water tight floor and wall systems)
- Wet floodproofing (permits entry and passage of flood waters)

Dry floodproofing (water tight floor and wall systems). Wet floodproofing (permits entry and passage of flood waters).

In the event of pending flood threats it is always advisable to take the following emergency actions:

- Sand bagging to reduce erosion and scouring.
- Elevate furniture above flood protection levels.
- Create floodway openings in non-habitable areas such as garage doors.
- Seal off sewer lines to the dwelling to prevent the backflow of sewer waters.



# WILDFIRES

Plan your evacuation well before the threat of a wildfire arises. Emergency officials will make every attempt to alert residents as far in advance as possible, but there may be little or no notice of the impending danger of a wildfire. You may only have minutes to evacuate.

All residents are encouraged to create an evacuation plan that includes routes, a meeting place, and emergency contacts (preferably someone well outside the area).

When planning an evacuation route, have more than one route planned in case an area is blocked. Use main arteries and avoid “short cuts” on less traveled routes. Emergency service personnel will monitor safety on the main arteries and surveillance of lesser-known streets will take a back seat.

## PREVENT WILDFIRES

St. Lucie County is in a wildfire hazard area. Various ignition factors start fires, including lightning, burning without a permit, catalytic converters on cars coming in contact with dry grass, and arson. To help protect residents from the effects of a wildfire, mow vegetation deemed a fire hazard that is within 30 feet of an adjacent structure. Hazardous vegetation includes saw palmetto, gallberry, wax myrtle, and cedar that is an average height of more than 3 or 4 feet and densely populated.

## FIRE SAFETY

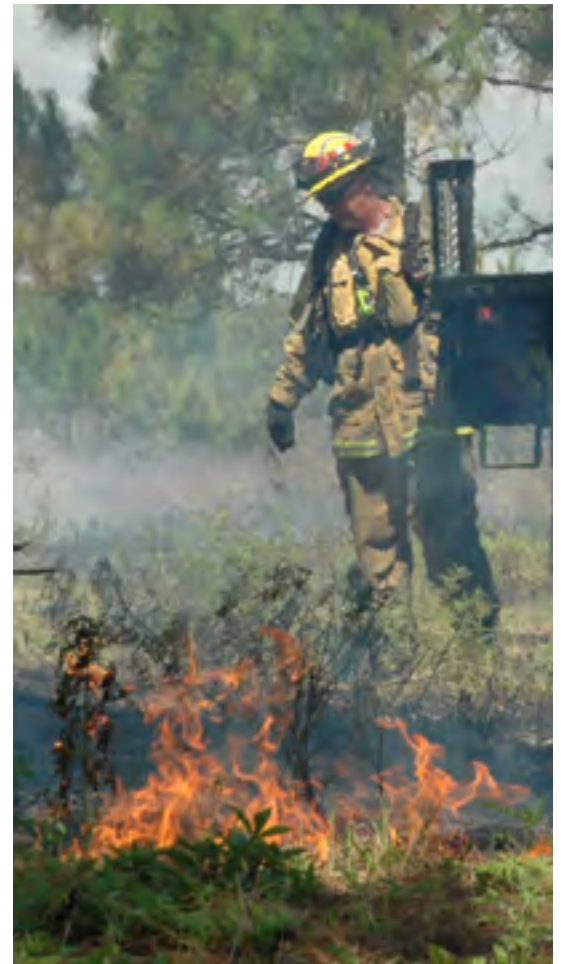
In an emergency, call 911 for assistance. Do not call the Fire District directly. All emergency vehicles and services are dispatched through the 911 system. Responses to the most critical situations are handled with priority.

The Fire District cannot drain flooded homes, pools, or drainage ditches, and does not handle tree/ limb removal. The Fire District does respond to downed power lines to secure the area until Florida Power and Light arrives. It does not handle electrical problems. When the power fails, turn off light switches and unplug all electrical connections. This will prevent hazards when power is restored. If you evacuate, turn off your water, electricity, and propane.

Grills and camp stoves should only be used outside in a well-ventilated area away from buildings. Do not leave grills or camp stoves unattended. Extinguish the flame when you are finished cooking

Any fire used for cooking purposes must be contained. Cooking over open flames is prohibited.

Avoid the use of candles and other open flame situations. It is dangerous to leave candles unattended and the result can be devastating. Have plenty of battery operated lighting options available. Generators should be wired by licensed electricians. Use generators outside in well-ventilated areas.



## BE FIRE WISE

- Store firewood, propane tanks, and gasoline away from the house.
- Clean gutters and roofs of leaves and pine needles.
- Install spark arresters on chimney flues.
- Install wire mesh screening to prevent burning embers from blowing under decks.
- Remove vines that allow a fire access to the tree canopy.
- Move tree branches from the roof of the house.
- Remove leaves from shrubbery beds and dead branches from trees. Mow and trim grass and shrubs.
- When planting, keep a clear space at plant maturity or at least 2 or 3 feet from the house.



# DURING AN EMERGENCY

## HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

- Stay informed by monitoring the latest forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service, as well as information and advice from local emergency management officials.
- Implement your family's disaster plan and stay calm.
- Evacuate if ordered to do so. Bridges will be closed to all traffic, including emergency responders.

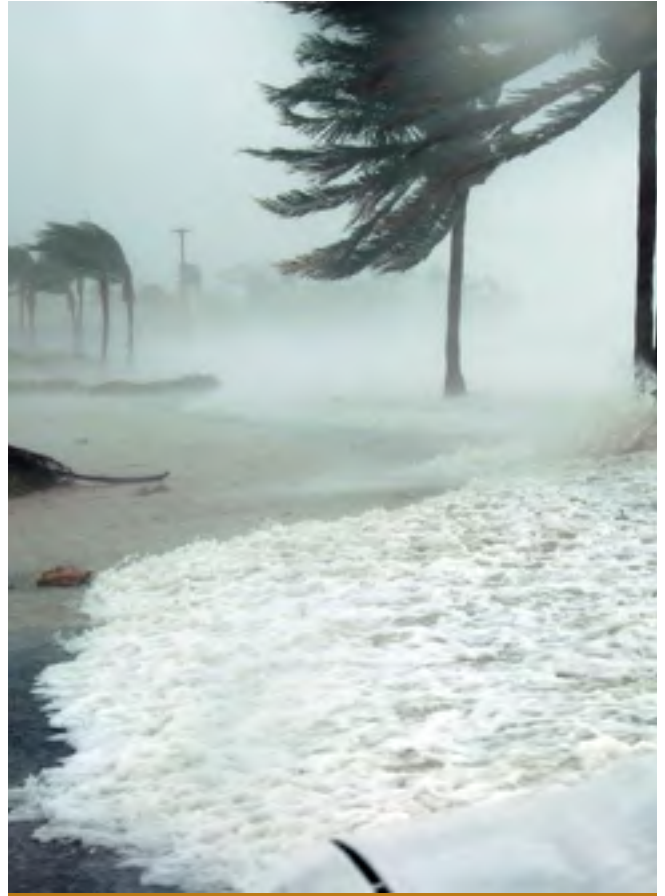
### SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Evacuation orders will be made to protect residents from potential storm surge.

If you live in a mobile home, manufactured home, or recreational vehicle, also be prepared to leave. Mobile homes, manufactured homes and recreational vehicles must be evacuated county-wide for any hurricane. Even if you live inland and have tie downs, these buildings may not withstand hurricane conditions or wind-borne debris.

If you live in a well-constructed home that is built to hurricane code, consider sheltering at home, unless ordered to evacuate by emergency management officials.

**\*\* Evacuation Route Map Located on the Inside Back Cover \*\***



## THUNDERSTORMS

When storms approach and thunder is heard, move indoors. If you are caught outside, do not stand under or near tall trees, open areas (such as the beach or golf course), or in water. Stay away from metallic items (bicycles, motorcycles, golf carts, etc.). Heed all severe thunderstorm warnings. If a warning is issued prepare for damaging winds or large hail. If you or someone with you is struck by lightning, seek medical attention immediately.



## TORNADOS

Seek shelter when a tornado warning is issued or if you see threatening weather. You may only have minutes to do so. Seek shelter in a small interior room in a sturdy building. Abandon mobile homes for more substantial shelter or find a ditch.







## FLOODING

Leave immediately when told to evacuate. Proceed calmly and quickly with your pre-planned evacuation. After leaving the evacuation area, make emergency contacts. Make the calls brief, as others will be attempting to do the same and lines may be tied up. If you are severely injured, or in imminent threat of danger, call 911 for assistance.

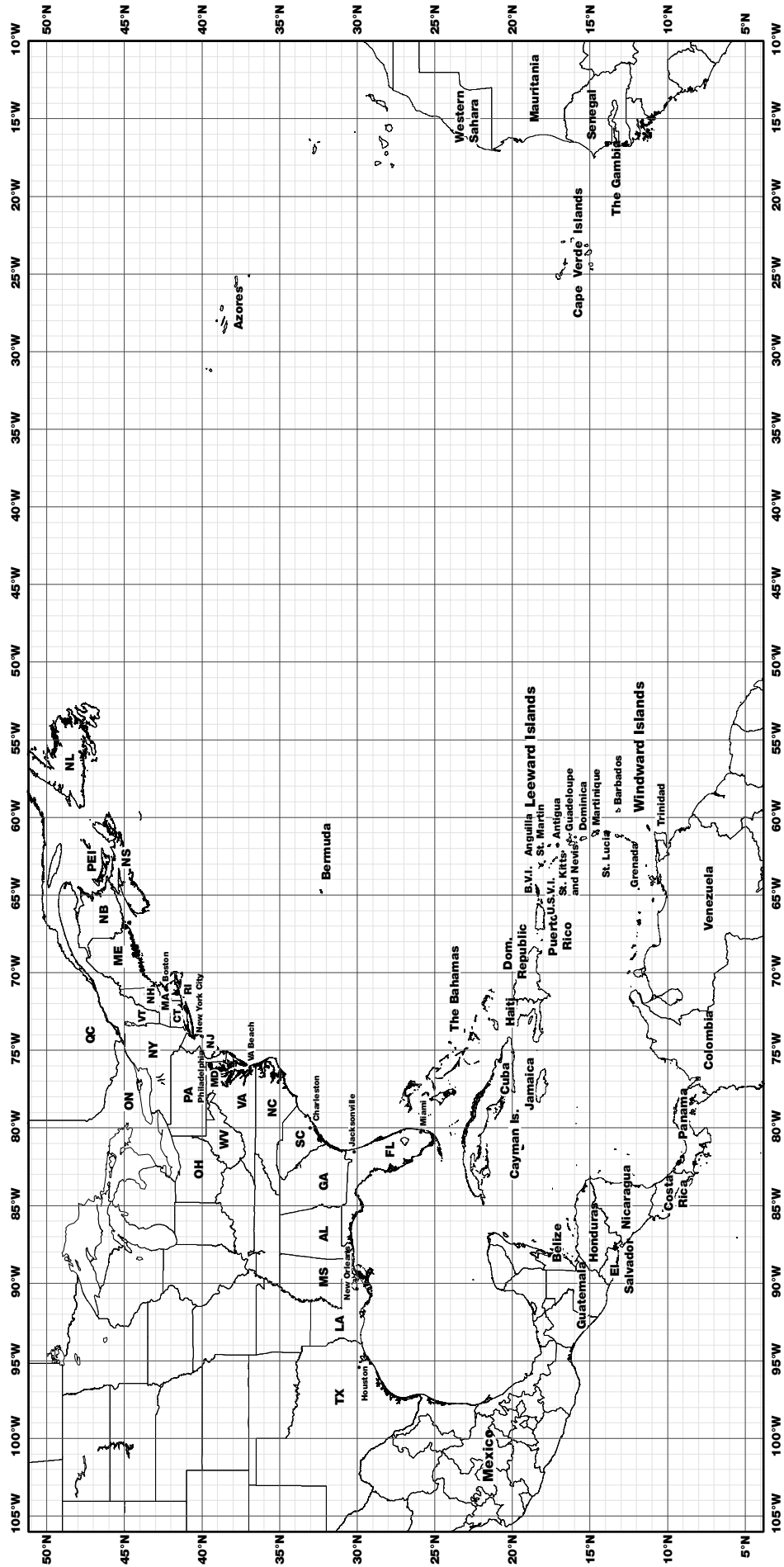
Monitor [www.stlucieco.gov/eoc](http://www.stlucieco.gov/eoc), radio, and television for current information. The media will work closely with emergency officials to ensure the most up-to-date information is available. Do not return to your home or business until instructed to do so.





# Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida



# SUGGESTED HURRICANE SUPPLY LIST

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Canned goods and nonperishable foods that do not need cooking, such as:
  - ✓ canned meats and fish
  - ✓ canned fruits and vegetables
  - ✓ canned soups and puddings
  - ✓ canned fruit juices
  - ✓ dried fruit
  - ✓ baby formula and food
  - ✓ bread, cookies and crackers
  - ✓ peanut butter and jelly
  - ✓ coffee and tea
  - ✓ bottled water
- ✓ Manual can opener
- ✓ Prescription medication (2 week supply)
- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Disposable plates, cups and utensils
- ✓ Infant care items such as disposable diapers
- ✓ First aid supplies
- ✓ Masking or duct tape
- ✓ Flashlight or lantern and extra batteries
- ✓ Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- ✓ Non-electric clock
- ✓ Ice chest
- ✓ Extra flashlight or lantern bulbs
- ✓ Canned heat (sterno)
- ✓ Lamp or lantern with fuel supply
- ✓ Portable outdoor camping stove or grill with fuel supply
- ✓ Plastic trash bags
- ✓ Plastic sheeting for drop cloth
- ✓ Chlorinated bleach (unscented)
- ✓ Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- ✓ Mosquito repellent
- ✓ Other items that may be useful include:
  - ✓ hammer
  - ✓ screwdriver
  - ✓ pliers and wrenches
  - ✓ handsaw
  - ✓ razor knife
  - ✓ ax or chainsaw
  - ✓ rope caulking
  - ✓ nails and screws
  - ✓ rope and wire
  - ✓ bucket, mop, broom, scrub brush and rags
  - ✓ all purpose cleaner
  - ✓ ladder
  - ✓ sandbags
  - ✓ portable generator
  - ✓ sheets of plywood
  - ✓ shovel, rake, wheelbarrow
  - ✓ tree pruner

# HURRICANE EVACUATION KIT

Wherever you decide to seek refuge during a hurricane evacuation - whether a friend's home, a motel/hotel, or an emergency public shelter - you must take provisions with you. The following suggested items will make your temporary stay more comfortable:

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Foods (canned goods and nonperishable foods that do not need cooking)
- ✓ Drinking water in nonbreakable container - 2 gallons per person per day
- ✓ Special dietary food if required
- ✓ Identification, valuable papers, insurance policies and photos in a waterproof container
- ✓ Personal hygiene items such as: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, aspirin, antacid, diapers, washcloth, towel, etc.
- ✓ Utensils such as: manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, etc.
- ✓ Personal aids, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, etc.
- ✓ Prescription medications
- ✓ Specific medical information
- ✓ Books, magazines, cards, toys and games
- ✓ Infant care items such as: formula, baby food
- ✓ and disposable diapers
- ✓ Battery operated radio
- ✓ Flashlight or lantern
- ✓ First aid kit, which includes: betadine solution, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, sterile pads, bandaids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, nonprescription medication
- ✓ Extra batteries for radio and flashlights
- ✓ Sleeping bag or blanket, sheet and pillow
- ✓ Change of clothing
- ✓ Rainwear



# AFTER AN EMERGENCY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Do not return to your home until local officials have announced roads that are clear and safe to travel. In areas of heavy damage, re-entry may be controlled by special permit, pass, or documentation in order to verify property ownership. Make sure you have proper identification cards/permits with you in order to show proof of residency/ownership.

Once you return, you should carefully check for structural damage prior to entering any building. Use caution when entering. Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs can be slippery.

After ensuring that your neighborhood has been cleared to do so, turn on the utilities in your home. Turn the electricity on one breaker at a time and watch for smoke or sparks. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never smoke or use candles, lanterns, matches or open flames unless you know the gas has been properly turned off and the entire area is ventilated.

If you have sustained damage that makes staying in your home unsafe, find alternate shelter and have a professional assess and repair the damage. Avoid loose or dangling power lines and immediately report them to 911. **For power outages in your area, contact Florida Power and Light at 1-800-468-8243.**

Although cable lines do not carry any electricity and cannot cause an electric shock, many of the lines are connected to power poles and may contact live power as a result of storm damage. It is extremely dangerous for anyone to go near these lines. Once power has been restored to an area, cable company's crews will move in to reconstruct lines and restore services as quickly as possible.

Do not let children play around high water, storm drains, or ditches. Besides the danger of drowning, backed up sewage and possible toxic runoff make this water unhealthy. Clean everything that got wet.

Flood waters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, commercial properties, and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics, and medicines can be health hazards. When in doubt, throw it out. Remember, carbon monoxide exhaust kills. Only use a generator or other gasoline powered equipment outdoors. The same goes for cooking stoves. Charcoal fumes are especially deadly and should be outdoors.



## HURRICANES & TROPICAL STORMS

- Protect yourself and family first.
- Heed all advice from Emergency Officials and monitor information sources (like the radio) for bulletins.
- Expect to be without power for extended periods of time.
- Never use your generator indoors and never connect your generator directly to your home's wiring.
- Stay away from downed power lines and flooded areas.
- Assess all food to decide what to keep or throw away.
- Dispose of food waste as soon as possible.
- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Separate yard trash from household trash.

## TORNADOS & THUNDERSTORMS

- Do not resume outdoor activities until thunder is no longer heard for at least 30 minutes.
- If damage has occurred, survey your situation before venturing out. If significant damage has occurred to your neighborhood, remain at your home if it is safe to do so. There may be multiple hazards from debris and power lines, if so wait for responders to arrive to establish scene safety.
- Report damage to your insurance company when it is safe to do so.
- Monitor media sources or [www.stlucieco.gov/eoc](http://www.stlucieco.gov/eoc) for any official information.

## FLOODING

- Look before you step. Following a flood, the floor may be covered with hazardous materials. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be slippery.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never smoke or use candles, lanterns, matches or open flames unless you know the gas was properly turned off and the entire area has been ventilated. Clean everything that got wet. Flood waters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, commercial properties, and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics, and medicines can be health hazards. When in doubt, throw it out.

### Drainage System Maintenance

A community can lose a portion of its drainage system carrying or storage capacity due to dumping, debris, soil erosion and sedimentation, and overgrowth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding occurs more frequently and reaches higher elevations, subjecting properties otherwise protected to unnecessary risk of damage. Keep grass clippings and other debris out of stormwater drainage systems to prevent clogging and loss of stormwater storage and treatment capacity. Abandoning property, garbage, trash, junk or debris in any lake, river, stream or tidal or coastal waters is a violation of St. Lucie County Code Section 1-9-18. If you experience any localized drainage problems, including illegal stream dumping please notify the County at (772) 462-2511.

### Businesses

Only clean stormwater or uncontaminated groundwater may enter the County's drainage system. Your business may be required to obtain a State Stormwater Permit! Call (772) 462-1668 for assistance. Don't let the rain make you a polluter!

### Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Any development in the floodplain requires a building permit in accordance with the St. Lucie County Land Development Code. Additional development requirements apply to structures constructed or improved in a floodplain.

Please contact the Planning and Development Services Department at (772) 462-1553 prior to commencing any development activity for permitting requirements and to review the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to determine if your property is located within a flood hazard area. Elevation Certificates may be available for some existing structures and can be researched through the Planning and Development Services Department.

If you suspect that illegal floodplain development is occurring please contact Code Enforcement at (772) 462-1571.

### Substantial Damage/Improvement Requirements

In accordance with NFIP standards, the St. Lucie County Land Development Code defines:

- **Substantial Damage:** Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
- **Substantial Improvement:** Any combination of repairs, reconstruction, alteration or improvements to a building, taking place during the life of a building, in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building.

A Substantial Improvement requires that the entire building meet the same standards as new construction and that the finished floor elevation of the entire building is elevated above the base flood elevation.

## WILDFIRES

- Upon returning home, you may be asked to do an inspection to assess damage. In this case, reentry passes may be issued allowing one vehicle per household to enter the area.
- Do not turn on utilities until given an "All Clear." Assess your home for hazards, and if problems exist that endanger you and your family, leave the structure until proper repairs have been made.
- Do not place yourself or your family in a dangerous situation



## FOOD PREPARATION AND SAFETY

Food kept in a closed, full freezer will be safe for about 48 hours. A closed refrigerator should keep food safe for about four hours. If the temperature rises above 41 degrees in your refrigerator or freezer, discard all perishable food.

Throw away all food that has been exposed to flood waters. This includes food in cans, plastic, glass and cardboard containers. Discard all paper, wood, or plastic items that contain food or are used in food preparation that have had contact with flood waters.

Ensure water is properly sanitized before using it. Clean and sanitize all food preparation surfaces as well as the inside of your refrigerator and freezer before restocking groceries. Wash and sanitize all utensils before use: completely immerse them in clean water and bring it to a rolling boil for 1 minute; allow to cool, remove, and air dry prior to use; or immerse them in clean water (room temperature) containing 2 teaspoons of unscented chlorine bleach per quart or 3 tablespoons unscented chlorine bleach per gallon for 15 minutes; remove and air dry prior to use.

Wash your hands with clean water and soap before handling foods and after handling contaminated surfaces. Use paper/plastic items for serving foods until running water is available.

## DEBRIS REMOVAL

Questions about debris removal, flooding or downed trees should be directed to the Public Information Lines at (772) 460-4357 (460-HELP).

Depending on the severity of the damage, debris pick-up following a storm will either be collected by Public Works personnel or through a debris management company contracted by the County. In either case, debris should be placed curbside as soon as possible following the storm.

Care should be taken to not place debris in the roadway or near fire hydrants, mailboxes, swales, or ditches. Yard waste must be bagged or bundled for collection. Excessive tree debris may be collected as an expanded service.

Garbage collection will resume its normal schedule as soon as possible following any event. Your household solid waste, recyclables, and yard waste can be placed in its normal location for collection on scheduled days.

Call the Public Information Line at (772) 460-4357 (HELP) to report traffic signal outages, downed street signs and stop signs, and trees that are down in the right-of-way. Avoid downed powerlines, whether they appear to be live or not. If you see a downed line, contact 911 immediately.

## TREES AND LIMBS

Do not try to do it all yourself – a professional arborist is needed if large limbs are broken or hanging, or if overhead chain saw or ladder work is required







PROTECT YOURSELF  
AND OTHERS FROM

# COVID 19

Know signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. Know what to do if you or someone in your household gets sick.

Practice everyday preventive actions to keep yourself and others safe from COVID-19.

Follow additional precautions if you are considered at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19, including if you are an older adult or anyone with an underlying health conditions.

Consider following additional precautions if you have a disability, are experiencing homelessness, are pregnant or breastfeeding, are a racial or ethnic minority, or are a caregiver for someone with dementia.



# PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

## How do I know if I am eligible to go to a Special Needs Shelter?

- Persons dependent upon health professional to administer injectable medication.
- Person requiring daily or more frequent dressing changes by a health care professional.
- Persons needing assistance by a health care professional with ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis, or indwelling catheters of any kind.
- Person whose activities of daily living are restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.
- Persons who require daily assessment of unstable medical condition by professional nursing personnel, i.e., diabetes, cardiac, cystic fibrosis.
- Terminally ill patients who in need of professional assistance for administering heavy doses of medication.
- Person whose life depends upon electrically energized equipment within their residence (i.e., suction machines, home dialysis machines, O2 concentrators) excluding electric wheelchair without other qualifying conditions.
- Person depends on oxygen therapy.
- Person that is bedridden and requires custodial care upon advice of a personal physician.
- Person in need of a caregiver for assistance 24/7 with assistance in daily activities due to cognitive impairment or other (Strokes, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's etc.) care.

## Items to bring to a shelter:

- A Public and Special Needs Shelter will provide you with shelter. Each individual must bring other items needed for minimal comfort. Some items may include:
- Cots, pillows, blankets, linens. Cots are provided for Special Needs clients ONLY at the Special Needs Shelter. Caregivers will have to provide their own cot or equivalent.
- 3 day supply of non-perishable food for individual preference or dietary needs also 1 gallon of water per person per day.
- Medications in prescription bottles, medical supplies, medical equipment (i.e oxygen concentrators, portable oxygen bottles).
- Personal items; important papers, glasses, hygiene articles, clothing, flashlight, quiet games (i.e: cards, books)

TO REGISTER ONLINE OR TO RECEIVE AN APPLICATION VISIT OR CALL

[www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds](http://www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds)

ST. LUCIE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY  
15305 W. Midway Rd. Fort Pierce, FL 34945  
☎ (772) 462-8100 📠 772-462-2308

# PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Give yourself more time than usual to prepare your emergency food, water, and medicine supplies. Home delivery is the safest choice for buying disaster supplies; however, that may not be an option for everyone. If in-person shopping is your only choice, take steps to protect your and others' health when running essential errands.

Protect yourself and others when filling prescriptions by limiting in-person visits to the pharmacy. Sign up for mail order delivery or call in your prescription ahead of time and use drive-through windows or curbside pickup, if available.

Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including shelters for your pets.

If you need to evacuate, prepare a "go kit" with personal items you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, bar or liquid soap, disinfectant wipes (if available), and two masks for each person. Masks should not be used by children under the age of 2. They also should not be used by people having trouble breathing, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow social distancing recommendations (staying at least 6 feet from others) and other CDC recommendations to protect yourself and others.

## PREPARE TO EVACUATE

If you may need to evacuate, prepare a "go kit" with personal items you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, bar or liquid soap, disinfectant wipes (if available) and two masks for each person. Masks should not be used by children under the age of 2. They also should not be used by people having trouble breathing, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Know a safe place to shelter and have several ways to receive weather alerts, such as National Weather Service cell phone alert/external icon, NOAA Weather Radio/external icon, or (@NWS) Twitter alerts.

Find out if your local public shelter is open, in case you need to evacuate your home and go there. Your shelter location may be different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Follow guidance from your local public health or emergency management officials on when and where to shelter.

Make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for your pets. Find out if your disaster shelter will accept pets.

Typically, when shelters accommodate pets, the pets are housed in a separate area from people.

Follow safety precautions when using transportation to evacuate. If you have to travel away from your community to evacuate, follow safety precautions for travelers to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

## STAYING WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY

If you will be staying with friends or family outside your household to evacuate from the storm:

Talk to the people you plan to stay with about how you can all best protect yourselves from COVID-19.

Be sure to consider if either of your households has someone who is at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults or people of any age who have underlying medical conditions. Make sure everyone knows what they can do to keep them safe from COVID-19.

Follow everyday preventive actions, including covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands often, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Consider taking extra precautions for people living in close quarters.

Know what to do if someone in your family or in the household you are staying with becomes sick with COVID-19. Take steps to keep your pets safe.

## STAYING IN A PUBLIC DISASTER SHELTER

If you need to go to a disaster shelter, follow CDC recommendations for staying safe and healthy in a public disaster shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Practice social distancing. Stay at least 6 feet from other people outside of your household.

Follow CDC COVID-19 preventive actions—wash your hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and follow shelter policies for wearing masks. Avoid sharing food and drink with anyone if possible.

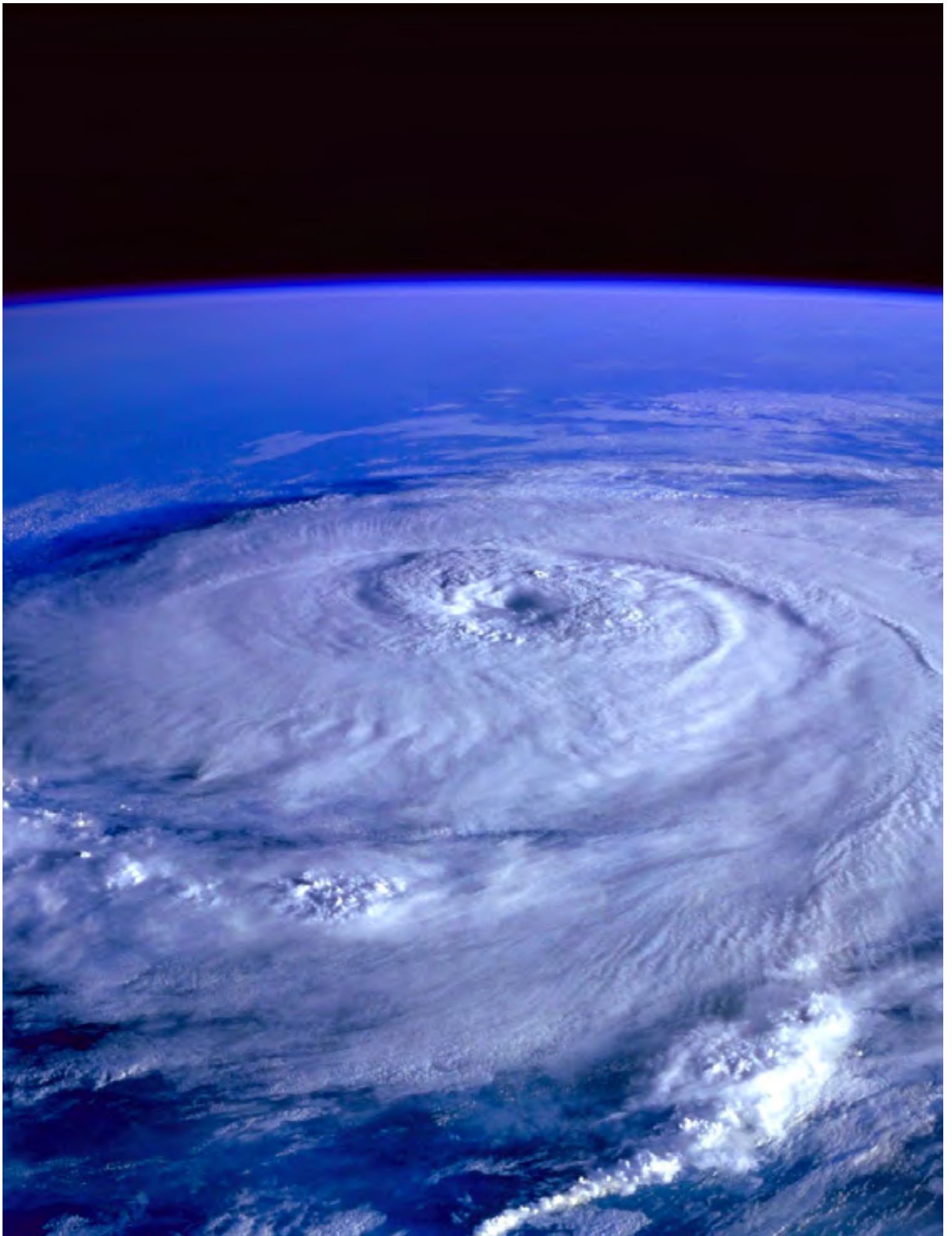
Follow disaster shelter policies and procedures designed to protect everyone in the shelter, especially those who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.

Avoid touching high-touch surfaces, such as handrails, as much as possible. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol immediately after you touch these surfaces.

Keep your living area in the shelter clean and disinfect frequently-touched items such as toys, cellphones, and other electronics.

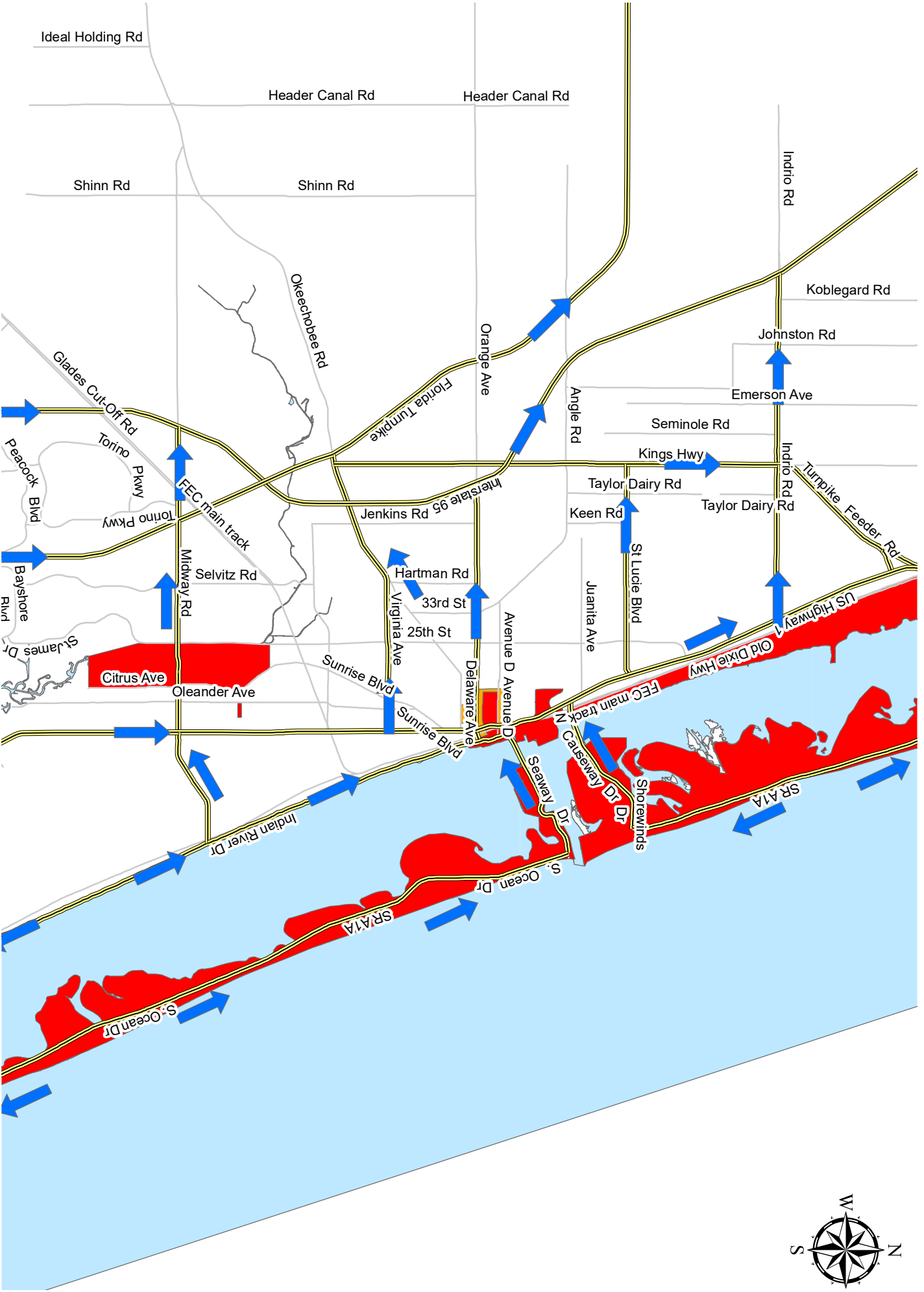
If you feel sick when you arrive at the shelter or start to feel sick while sheltering, tell shelter staff immediately.





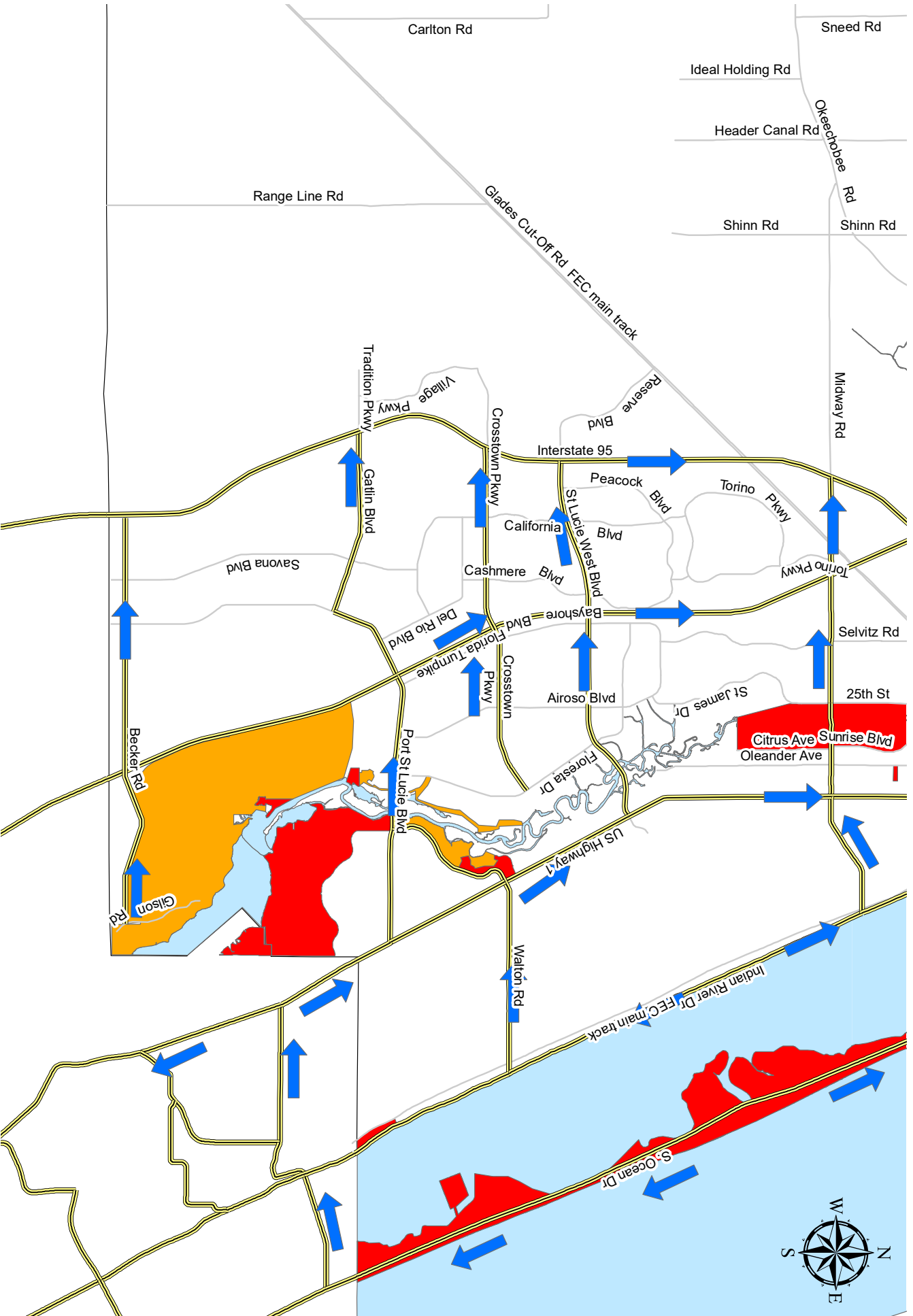


# North St. Lucie County Evacuation Zones and Routes





# South St. Lucie County Evacuation Zones and Routes





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



EMERGENCY

# 911

CALL 911 ONLY TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY

ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: (772) 462-8100

ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION: (772) 462-1100

ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE:  
(NON-EMERGENCY) (772) 462-7300

ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT:  
(NON-EMERGENCY) (772) 621-3400

LAWNWOOD REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER AND  
HEART INSTITUTE: (772) 461-4000

MARTIN HEALTH AT TRADITION (772) 345-8100

ST. LUCIE MEDICAL CENTER: (772) 335-4000

POISON CONTROL: (800) 222-1222

FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT: (800) 468-8243  
(800) 4-OUTAGE

FLORIDA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)



## ST LUCIE COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE



(772) 460 - 4357

OR

(772) 460 - HELP

### ST. LUCIE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

15305 W. Midway Rd. Fort Pierce, FL 34945

☎ (772) 462-8100 📠 772-462-2308

🌐 [www.stlucieco.gov/eoc](http://www.stlucieco.gov/eoc)



## FORT PIERCE

CITY OF FORT PIERCE  
ADMINISTRATION:

(772) 467-3000

FORT PIERCE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
(NON-EMERGENCY)

(772) 467-6800



## PORT ST. LUCIE

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE  
ADMINISTRATION:

(772) 467-6800

PORT ST. LUCIE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(NON-EMERGENCY)

(772) 871-5000

### OFFICIAL EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION



#### SLCTV

Comcast Channel 21  
AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

#### West Palm:

WPTV - NBC Channel 5  
WPEC - CBS Channel 12  
WPBF - ABC Channel 25  
WFLX - FOX Channel 29



#### Radio

WQCS - 88.9 FM



#### Online

[www.stlucieco.gov](http://www.stlucieco.gov)